For Immediate Release
Sept. 18, 2000

Contact: Stacie Leatherman, (216) 421-7340, ext. 265

RECENT PRINTS BY MAJOR JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURED IN NEW EXHIBITION AT CMA

CLEVELAND — Recent works by acclaimed Japanese photographer Yasuhiro Ishimoto will be on view at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) Oct. 21, 2000–Jan. 3, 2001. On display in gallery 105, **Yasuhiro Ishimoto Photographs: Traces of Memory** will include about 25 black-and-white photographs taken between 1987 and 1997. The series of images represented include abstract depictions of clouds, leaves, water, footprints, and crushed soft drink cans. Admission to the show is *free*.

"Yasuhiro Ishimoto is one of the most important contemporary Japanese photographers," says Tom Hinson, CMA's curator of photography and organizer of the exhibition. "Well-known for his documentary pictures of Chicago and Tokyo, Ishimoto has, in the past 10 years or so, turned his self-proclaimed 'childlike habit of endless questioning' to transient subjects, producing subtle, meditative studies. This work is beautiful and evocative, poetic, and symbolically rich. It stimulates one's imagination, triggering remembrances of experiences and feelings."

Hinson has chosen such works as *Clouds* (1991), an image that suggests a Buddha's folded hands; and *Snow* (1994), in which footprints resemble strokes of Asian calligraphy markings. In *Leaves* (1991), a decaying leaf is almost indistinguishable from the ground it is embedded in. *Water* (1996) features sunlight patterns on a pond's surface. The ambiguous shape of an aluminum *Can* (1989) has been flattened into the pavement by passing cars. All are 11- x 14-inch gelatin silver prints.

Born in San Francisco in 1921, Ishimoto moved to Japan when he was three, returning to the United States in 1939 to study agriculture. His education was interrupted in 1941 when he was sent to the Amachi Internment Camp in Colorado, where he learned photography. After his release in 1945, he went to Chicago, initially studying architecture at Northwestern University before entering the Institute of Design (Illinois Institute of Technology) three years later, where he studied primarily with photographer Harry Callahan. In 1955, Edward Steichen, curator of photography at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, selected Ishimoto's work for the landmark exhibition and catalogue *The Family of Man*.

(more …)

In 1997, Japan awarded Ishimoto one of its highest honors, making him a "Person of Cultural Merit," which includes a fellowship for life.

The next gallery 105 show (Jan. 5–Mar. 14, 2001) features 20- x 24-inch color Polaroids by **Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons**, a Cuban-born artist who resides in Boston, Massachusetts. In her photographs, she uses her body as a powerful iconographic source for exploring national and familial identity, femininity, and spirituality, especially Afro-Cuban religious ritual.

For more information about the CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit **www.clevelandart.org**.

# # #

(more …)